

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:
Ronald Leslie Johnson
Serial No.: Unknown
Filed: Herewith
Confirmation No.: Unknown
For: A SCREENING MODULE

Group Art Unit: Unknown
Examiner: Unknown
Customer No. : 26290

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination, please delete the claims in the International Application and insert new claims 1-15

Amendments to the claims begin on page 2.

Remarks begin on page 4.

In the Claims:

1. A screening module for a screening assembly, the screening module including:
 - a panel member having a periphery defined by a pair of opposed, parallel sides and a pair of opposed parallel ends;
 - a mounting formation arranged about at least a part of the periphery of the panel member for mounting the panel member on an underlying frame;
 - a plurality of discrete aperture arrays defined in a surface of the body member; and
 - a skirt portion circumscribing each aperture array, each skirt portion depending from a lower surface of the panel member.
2. The module of claim 1 in which each aperture array is substantially rectangular when viewed in plan.
3. The module of claim 15 in which each reinforcing arrangement includes at least one reinforcing member extending from a part of the skirt portion on one side of its associated aperture array to a part of the skirt portion on an opposed side of the aperture array.
4. The module of claim 3 in which the at least one reinforcing member is a rib which is arranged beneath the aperture array.
5. The module of claim 3 in which secondary reinforcing elements extend outwardly from the reinforcing member.
6. The module of claim 5 in which the secondary reinforcing elements comprise a series of spaced, parallel elements arranged transversely to the reinforcing member and extending from the reinforcing member to the skirt portion.
7. The module of claim 1 in which the mounting formation comprises a plurality of clips.

8. The module of claim 7 in which the clips are integrally formed with the panel member as a one-piece unit.
9. The module of claim 1 in which the skirt portions are arranged such that channels are defined between adjacent parts of skirt portions of adjacent aperture arrays, the channels being dimensioned to be a sliding fit over support members of the underlying frame.
10. The module of claim 9 in which each channel permits vertical displacement of the panel member relative to the underlying support members to facilitate dislodging of material blinding apertures.
11. A screening assembly which includes:
 - a plurality of screening modules, each as claimed in claim 1; and
 - a support frame on which the screening modules are removably mounted.
12. The assembly of claim 11 in which the support frame has rails to be engaged by the mounting formation of the module.
13. The assembly of claim 12 in which the support frame includes support members which underlie the panel member of each screening module the support members spanning the space between adjacent, parallel rails of the frame.
14. The assembly of claim 11 in which the support frame is a demountable frame.
15. The module of claim 1 which includes a reinforcing arrangement arranged beneath each aperture array, the reinforcing arrangement being bounded by its associated skirt portion.

REMARKS

The Applicant requests that the Examiner enter the amendment prior to examining the application. The amendments to the claims do not constitute any new matter. Early and favorable action in connection with this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



William B. Patterson
Registration No. 34,102
PATTERSON & SHERIDAN, L.L.P.
3040 Post Oak Blvd. Suite 1500
Houston, TX 77056
Telephone: (713) 623-4844
Facsimile: (713) 623-4846
Attorney for Applicant